



# ***News Release***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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Connecticut District Office  
330 Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-1800  
Tel. (860) 240-4700  
Website: [www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct)

Contact: Debra Dillon  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Tel: (860) 240-4654  
Fax: (860) 240-4659  
Email: [Debra.Dillon@sba.gov](mailto:Debra.Dillon@sba.gov)

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### **SBA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 CONNECTICUT SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AND SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS**

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is seeking nominations for the 2008 Small Business Person of the Year and Small Business Champion awards. All winners will be recognized during a state held gathering, while the Small Business Person of the Year will also be honored during National Small Business Week, proclaimed annually by the President and held in Washington, DC during next spring.

“We are asking the small business community, our resource partners, lenders and individuals to nominate an outstanding small business owner or champion for one of these prestigious awards,” said SBA Connecticut District Director Bernard M. Sweeney.

The SBA is accepting nominations in the following four business owner categories: Small Business Person of the Year; Small Business Exporter of the Year; Young Entrepreneur (under the age of 30 as of June 1, 2008); and Family-Owned Small Business (the business must have a 15-year track record, and must have been passed down from at least one generation to another).

Small Business Champion awards are given to individuals or organizations that promote small business and may or may not be small business owners. The champion categories are: Minority Small Business Champion; Women in Business Champion; Veteran Small Business Champion; Home-based Business Champion; Financial Services Champion and Small Business Journalist Champion.

“Entrepreneurs and small business champions play a vital role in ongoing business development efforts. They are essential to sustaining our nation’s and our state’s economic health,” says Sweeney. “SBA’s annual awards present an excellent opportunity to recognize their accomplishments”.

Nomination guidelines are available at <http://www.sba.gov/nominationsguidelines/>. An abbreviated nomination form is available online at [www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct) and is due by November 5. Full and complete nomination packages are due by November 26, 2007. Please send nominations to Debra C. Dillon, SBA, 330 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor, Hartford, CT 06106-1800. For more information, call (860) 240-4654 or email [Debra.Dillon@sba.gov](mailto:Debra.Dillon@sba.gov).

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